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Dear Joshua:

Thank you so much for your prompt and detailed critique of my manuscript on THE PRICE OF GREATNESS. A number of your comments were very thought-provoking. I also appreciated the materials you sent, some of which I had read before (i.e., the account of your discovery and your reflections on scientific biography) and some of which I had not (i.e., Stigler's law of eponymy -- delightful!). I also am grateful for your pointing out several embarrassing errors and oversights which I shall correct immediately.

I was pleased to see your self-rating on the eight items in my template for greatness, the results of which are summarized below.

COMPARISON OF SELF-RATINGS OF J. L. TO IDEAL SCORES ON  
A.M.L.'S (SELF-EPONYMY!) TEMPLATE FOR GREATNESS

	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
J.LEDERBERG	8	7.5000	2.7775	2.0	10.0
TEMPLATE	8	10.0000	.0000	10.0	10.0

For a single case study, this 75% concordance is encouraging (especially since you muddled matters by being in robust health as a child!). It would be interesting to learn what the scores would run for a larger sample of Nobel laureates (or major discoverers) in both the sciences and literature. With your many contacts, a study of this sort would be feasible. Perhaps that is a joint venture we could undertake in the future.

I was pleased to learn that you found my manuscript helpful for organizing the structure of your own *apologia pro vita sua*. In this regard, I should like to get your views on the following matters. In my own studies, I have found that the attributes of eminent people and the nature of their work become enmeshed over time. In your case, I wonder whether you see your work as an extension of who you are or, conversely, whether your work has had a shaping influence on you. Also, I wonder whether the same "cognitive themata" (as per Holton) have governed your

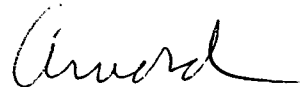
discoveries and contributions in different fields. Information of this sort would be invaluable to include in your autobiography.

As for the issue of lasting posthumous fame, I fear that you may be handicapped on several counts. But don't despair, there is still time to rectify matters! First of all, you need to cultivate some type of "charismatic flaw." Surely, in your memoirs, you could mention a quirk or eccentricity that can capture the public's imagination (such as fire-walking for relaxation). Then there is the matter of marketing. You need to find a catchy jingle that rhymes with your name (e.g., "If you're feeling low and need an extra erg, do what bacteria do ala 'Lederberg'). Also, if the scientific community continues to cannibalize your past contributions without giving you just due, perhaps we can induce the Board of Trustees to change the name of The Rockefeller University to Lederberg U. I'm kidding, of course, but there is some truth to this. That was how many persons in my study managed to remain well-known.

Mentioning my study, I am most anxious to get your opinion on three matters. From your perspective, have I satisfactorily answered the age-old question about the nature of the relationship between "creativity and madness"? Are my characterizations of the artistic, investigative, enterprising and social types convincing (especially, from your first-hand knowledge, the investigative types)? And do you find my template for greatness a credible interpretation of my findings? It would be helpful for me to know how the results of my study in such a murky area strike a distinguished scientist and educator of your stature.

Again, thanks so much for your prompt and gracious response. From what I know about you to date, I certainly would like to get to know you a lot better. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Arnold M. Ludwig, M.D.  
Evalyn A. Edwards Professor